

**Summer 2023**

**Fruitville Beach Civic Association**

P.O. Box 482 / Corolla, NC 27927

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**Message from the President**

Another bustling tourist season is winding down. I wanted to address some recent events that have cast a shadow on our coastal paradise. Over the past few months, we've witnessed several catastrophic wild horse incidents that have resulted in unnecessary deaths (horses and a turtle) and the difficult decision of euthanizing. It's a stark reminder of the delicate balance between our community and the beautiful wildlife that calls our shores home.

What do you suppose would happen if every homeowner who rents their home contacted their rental company with a request to include information in the rental packets regarding beach rules on responsible driving (airing down, cautious driving behind the dune lines), respecting the wildlife rules, filling in holes on the beach, picking up trash and car parts left behind, etc. What would happen if each rental also contained information INSIDE THE HOME highlighting the same points? I'd really like to see this happen and would be willing to bet there would be fewer future incidences.

On a more somber note, it is with a heavy heart that I announce the loss of a vital former member of our Board, Jack Pardue, Vice President and Board-Member-At-Large for more than 33 years. Jack passed away early August at his full-time home in Hertford, NC. He dedicated countless hours and made significant contributions to both FBCA and the 4x4 community. Jack donated his artistic talent to not only creating our logo, in use since 1989, but also creating paintings of a burning bush, Robert E. Lee and Sitting Bull that were sold to raise funds needed for legal defense toward litigation against the Department of the Interior during the time they wanted to own all the land in the 4x4 area. Jack's absence will be deeply felt, and he will be missed dearly.

As we reflect on these challenges and losses, let us also remember the beauty and resilience of our community. Together, we can work toward a safer and more harmonious coexistence with our natural surroundings.

Thank you for your commitment to Fruitville Beach Civic Association. May we move forward with compassion, respect, and a shared determination to protect the unique wonders of our coastal home.

Till soon,  
Eva

# General Membership Minutes

Fruitville Beach Civic Association  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
Carova Beach VFD  
May 28, 2023

Present: 22 members including Board Members and Officers and 7 via zoom

Meeting called to order at 11:12am

Eva addressed the group with pertinent information pertaining to rest rooms, and that we were guests of the fire dept and in the event of an emergency call, we were to stay in place and not interfere with "live" action.

Eva discussed special topic pertinent to Beach Vitex Issues. Vitex spreads and crowds out good vegetation which negatively impacts dune preservation. The horses do not eat it. Guest speaker from NC Dept. of Agriculture not available to attend meeting. Handouts were distributed and committee formed to discuss next step options, including signup sheet for volunteers to assist with eradication.

## Approval of May 28, 2022 BOARD Meeting Minutes

Motion by Carol Slamowitz to approve Minutes of May 28, 2022 General Membership Meeting as published in the Summer Fall Newsletter and posted on the website seconded by Dick Morgan. No discussion; All in favor. Motion carried.

## Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report submitted by Norman Zwahlen outlining statement of receipts/disbursements was read and explained by Eva Casola. (See below) Motion to accept by Chase Davenport, seconded by Dick Morgan.

Discussion: Eva Casola clarified expenditures for PO Box Fee, and transfer of funds to Attorney Trust Account as per FBCA Legal Defense Fund. Tom Hudak mentioned that Board review of expenditures and checks written comprised the internal audit. All in favor, Motion Carried.

Fruitville Beach Civic Association  
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements  
January 1, 2022---December 31, 2022

Balance January 1, 2022	\$10,832.52
Receipts	
Dues	\$ 1606.49
Interest Earned	\$ 0.96
Total	\$12,439.97

Disbursements	
Printing Postage and Supplies	\$289.37
*PO Box	
Website	\$ 80.68
**Legal	\$ 700.00
Donation	\$ 300.00
Meeting Expense	
Cluster Mailboxes	\$2990.14
Total Disbursements	\$4360.19

## **Treasurer's Report cont.**

Balance Dec. 31, 2022

\$8,079.78

\*PO Box Fee paid by Eva Casola with reimbursement post fiscal year

\*\* Legal fees comprise \$10 per dues payment and deposited in Attorney Trust Account

Respectfully submitted,  
Norman J Zwahlen, Treasurer

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### **Membership Report**

Pat Carstater reported that there are 339 members on roster of which 4 were removed because property was sold, owner deceased, lack of active forwarding address; as of the date of the meeting there were 41 dues paying members, which is 12 percent of our total roster. Electronic payments were made by 25, or 61 percent of our members; the remainder paid by check. Motion by Jennifer Early to accept membership report, seconded by Connie Johnson, no discussion, all in favor Motion Carried.

### **Election Report**

Pat Carstater reported that 20 ballots of which 14 were electronically submitted for the Annual Election of Officers and Board Members. There were no write in votes; all votes cast were for slate as presented. Motion by Kevin Bradley , seconded by Dick Morgan to accept election report as stated and that the Board officially certified the election for presentation to the General Membership. No Discussion. All in favor. Motion Carried.

### **Old Business**

#### **Social Media—Facebook Page**

Eva Casola reported that pertinent information as been posted periodically on FBCA Facebook page. Members/property owners are vetted prior to accessing page. Eva stated that currently 112 members vetted as owners have access to the information.

#### **Zoom**

Zoom expenses have been reviewed and Eva negotiated a deal with zoom for 30 hours tax free for \$16.79 per month. During months of inactivity there is no charge.

#### **Cluster Mail Box Project**

Eva reported that with the assistance of CBVFD members helping with installation, the project is complete in providing a valuable service for the community.

Eva made a motion, seconded by Jennifer to request that the CBVFD set aside a spot for cluster mailboxes adjacent to Station 7-2 Swan Beach. Discussion: suggestion was to discuss with Kim Roberson at PO to move ahead with an immediate need. All In Favor. Motion carried

#### **CBVFD Update-Jennifer Early**

The County Budget has included a new ambulance for Carova. The unit has been delivered but waiting for lift to be installed.

Jennifer reported that there is a 20-year limit on engines. Units have to be custom built and the County will fund resulting in tax increase for fire.

The CBVFD has retained a grant writer to address funding issues for Station 7-2.

## CBVFR Report continued

Station 7-2 helipad has been certified and is in service.

CBVFD department continues a fundraiser for 911 signage. Next fundraiser Donkey Derby is July 21<sup>st</sup>.

Motion by Eva Casola, seconded by Chase Davenport to donate \$100 to the CBVFD, and \$100 to Station 7-2.

Discussion: Jennifer as a member of the CBVFD Board recused herself. All In Favor, Motion Carried.

### **Corolla Wild Horse Fund—Pat Carstater**

Pat reported three new foals recently born Dove, Drake & Drum. Fund needs support and levels of donations. The CWHF website includes details for donations. Currently there are approximately 7,540 acres for the horses to roam. This area is getting smaller due to development. Motion by Eva, seconded by Jennifer to donate \$100 to the CWHF, no discussion, All in Favor Motion carried.

### **Mid County Bridge—Bud Nusselt**

Bud reported that there is information on the County and NCDOT websites pertaining to the Southern Environmental Law Center decision not to appeal the Supreme Court of NC decision to move forward with the project. Start of construction to be determined.

### ***New Business***

### **North Beach Beach Nourishment—Connie Johnson**

Connie stated that the County has hired a firm to develop an action plan for Currituck County Beaches nourishment incrementally over a three-year period with occupancy taxes to support cost of the project.

### **Gypsy Moth—Bud Nusselt**

Bud stated that NC Dept. of Agriculture plans to spray area north of Sunset Road hard paved area to North of Albatross. Spraying to be completed on or before May 30. Four different counties to be completed by mid-June. Spray pesticide supposedly nontoxic.

### **Beach Clean-Up Discussion—Connie Johnson**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Beach Clean-Up will be held on Oct. 14, 2023 at MP21.5. Program provides care of the serene area known as 4x4 beaches. Since 2007 the program has brought off road clubs for the Carova 4x4 Beach Clean.

### **NEST—General discussion---Jennifer Early reported in the absence of Cathie Blanton.**

To date nothing much happening. Morning and evening ATV checks to begin. Last year there were 14 active nests. Six volunteers from 4x4, Carova and Nags Head have successfully monitored nests successfully.

### **Meeting Adjourned 12:15pm**

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### **Sending a Fond Farewell**

After the meeting adjourned, all attendees were invited to celebrate the tenure of Norman Zwahlen who stepped down from the Board Treasury position for which he has served since 1989. A cake and gifts of appreciation were presented. Due to inclement weather, Norman could not be present at the meeting and joined us via Zoom. Norman was an integral part of the FBCA during some most difficult times and will be sorely missed. Chase Davenport was kind enough to offer his help in getting the gifts to Norman. Pat Carstater was elected as FBCA Treasurer in the 2023 election.



# What has happened since the May 28 meeting?

## FBCA

A small group of us met to discuss Beach Vitex (see notes from the minutes on page 2 and the 2023 Spring Newsletter from our website at [www.FruitvilleBeach.com](http://www.FruitvilleBeach.com) ), what it is and its location in the 4x4. We decided to take a road trip to see the areas where it was reported by last year's group. Unfortunately, we did find several areas in North Swan with Beach Vitex. We met an owner of several of the properties where it's located, who was concerned and gave permission for us to work toward eradication. All of that is well and good except for the fact that we need volunteers to help with these efforts. Please contact me (info on front page sidebar) if you are available to help.



Mark your calendar for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Carova Beach Clean on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 9am. They will start at MM21.5 and send crews in two directions. If you want to make sure they get to your area, you should come help them!

## CBVFR

The Donkey Derby was a huge success this summer with \$16,000 in funds being raised in support of the Carova Fire Station. Many volunteers are needed to pull off such an event. Contact the Auxiliary at <https://www.cbvfandr.com/members/auxillary/> to see how you can help with these efforts next year.

There have been at least two house fires in the Outer Banks area this year. Suggestions to have reflective house signs installed at your residence could greatly help the Fire Department find your house in an emergency. This is a small expense that could be very beneficial in the case of a fire or any other emergency. Please check their website <https://www.cbvfandr.com> to find more information on this or donating to either of the fire stations, Carova (7) or Swan Beach (7-2).

## CWHF

There has been much sad news for Corolla Wild Horse Fund this summer. There is no excuse for some of the things that have happened. You will need to check their website, the newspapers, or Facebook to learn more details. For 99% of us, the horses and the large expanse of undeveloped property are what drew us to this area. The other 1% make their living from the existence of the horses. Please consider joining CWHF efforts to purchase property for the horses or make a charitable contribution to help with CWHF needs. We all need to work toward this effort, or it will cease to exist!

## NEST

There are several turtle nests this year on the 4x4 beach, all of which need to be monitored. It's very exciting when nests start hatching, but it takes volunteers to help keep the turtles safe. Did you know YOU, as a home owner/renter, can help by turning off your inside/outside lights at night if they are visible from the beach. Please learn more about this, or volunteering, at [www.nestonline.org](http://www.nestonline.org) or 252-441-8622.

## Currituck County

Did you know Currituck County is considering changing the four-wheel-drive beach access? Specifically, they are wondering if the beach should be open **only** to County residents and 4x4 renters! In addition, the county has approved a 10-cent property tax increase for the upcoming year.

**Read about all this and more on our Facebook page at**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/5616285088414127>



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